



## Beaverton Police Department

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Chief Geoff Spalding



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Holiday Shopping Safety Tips**

With the holiday shopping season upon us and Black Friday just around the corner, it's time to talk about safety while shopping at the mall and online.

The Beaverton Police Department wants this holiday shopping season to be a safe one and has some tips that might help.

### **Black Friday:**

- Remember to be patient, even if others are not.
- It might be a good idea to not bring small children with you, because of the large crowds.
- Getting that deal is not worth sacrificing your safety.
- Be aware of your surroundings and what is going on around you.
- If the crowd gets rowdy exit the store.

### **Leaving items in your car:**

- Try not to leave gifts unattended in your car at all.
- Make sure that gifts are out of sight in a trunk or area not visible from outside your car.
- If you must leave them inside the car visible from the outside cover them with a blanket.
- Park your car in a well-lighted parking lot.
- If you see people in the parking lot that look like they are checking out cars call the police at (503) 629-0111.

### **Ordering items online:**

- Only place orders from a secure site. You can tell it is secure if you look at the top of your screen and it shows https// then the site address. Also a closed padlock might be displayed at the bottom of your screen.
- It is safest to use a credit card for online purchase. If you use a debit card and your information is compromised you will be out the money until it is worked out with your bank.
- Always print and save copies of your orders.

### **Having items delivered to your residence:**

- Track your shipment so you know when to expect it to be left at your residence.
- Make sure someone will be home to get the delivery so it is not left in the open.
- If you cannot be home check with a neighbor and see if they can keep an eye out for the delivery.
- If you cannot be home when the package is delivered have it sent to an address where someone will be at.
- Some delivery companies allow you to change the delivery address even after it has been shipped.

##BPD##